*161. [*The questioner (Shri Abu Asim Azmi) was absent. For answ*
vide pages 33-34 infra]

Expansion of game sanctuaries

*162. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the land area under game sanctuaries by buying up adjacent land;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a need to extend the area reserved for game sanctuaries;

(c) whether any plan is under consideration of Government to help State Governments acquire nearby land to sanctuaries;

(d) if so, the details of such plans; and

(e) the States which have been selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There are no Game Sanctuaries, as such, in the country. Only four categories of Protected Areas, *viz*., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves are there under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The National Wild Life Action Plan (2002–2016) envisages extension of Protected Areas from nearly 4.8 percent at present to ten percent of the country's geographical area. This will be achieved mainly through the establishment of Conservation Reserves in Government owned lands and of Community Reserves in community of private lands where the community or individuals volunteer to protect the wild life and its habitat.

(c) to (e) Provision has been made under the Centrally Sponsored schemes of Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant for relocation, rehabilitation and acquisition of land for resettlement of people and to ensure habitat and corridor development of wild animals. Financial assistance for this purpose is provided to the State Governments on demand driven basis and subject to the availability of funds.

श्री एस॰ एम॰ लालजन बाशा: सभापति जी, मेरा जो क्वेश्चन था, उसका मंत्री जी ने बहुत अच्छे ढंग से आन्सर दिया है। हम लोग देखते हैं कि वाइल्ड एक्ट, 1972 के बाद देश में

जितने भी नेशनल पार्क्स हैं, सैंक्चुरीज हैं, रिजर्व पार्क फोरेस्ट एरिया है, उनका जितना डेवलेपमेंट होना था, उतना नहीं हुआ है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि 1972 से अभी तक सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने इस पर कितना खर्च किया है? क्या इसका एक्सपैंशन करने के लिए आप और पैसा लगाने का सोच-विचार कर रहे हैं? आज ट्राइबल एरिया में जितने भी ट्राइबल भाई है, क्या उनके लिए कोई इको प्रोग्राम, डेवलेपमेंट प्रोग्राम के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को फाइनेंशियल ऐड देने का काम हो रहा है?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, for the improvement of Sanctuaries and National Parks, there are three projects. Though these three projects are not at all directly connected with the improvement of the wild life and other ecological systems in the National Parks, or Sanctuaries, including the tribal welfare and other facilities extended to the State Governments, we are spending under the heads of Project Tiger, which was launched in the year 1973 and Project Elephant. For the Project Tiger, so far Rs. 5.32 crores have been spent during the year 2003-2004 for relocation of villages inside the Sanctuaries and to improve the wild life. Similarly, for the Project Elephant, so far Rs. Five crores have been spent and around 6400 Hectares of land has been acquired for this project in the States of Meghalaya, Kerala and Karnataka. With regard to the second part of the question put by the hon. Member, we launched a special scheme, the Beneficiary-oriented Tribal Development Scheme, wherein if, for the purpose of any national park or sanctuary or any other forest project, some tribal families are being rehabilitated or relocated, they will be given one lakh rupees as a compensation amount. So far, Rs. 8.6 crores have been spent for relocation of 736 families in 16 forest villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Satisfied? आप मंत्री जी के जवाब से संतुष्ट हो गए होंगे?

श्री एस॰ एम॰ लालजन बाशा: नहीं सर। वर्ष 1972 से अभी तक कितना पैसा इस कार्य पर खर्च किया गया है, यह क्लिअर नहीं बताया गया है और दूसरी चीज स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को सेंटर से क्या फायनेंसियल सपोर्ट मिलता है, यह भी क्लिअर नहीं है। फिर आप ने जो फिगर्स बताएं हैं, वे बहुत ही कम है।

श्री सभापति: आप को तीन वर्ष की information मंत्री जी ने दे दी।

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, under the three projects, I have already submitted that these are the amounts which have been spent ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एस॰एम॰ लालजन बाशा: सर, recently फॉरेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट के जो अधिकारी साउथ अफ्रीका के जोहेंसबर्ग गए थे, उन पर कितना रुपया खर्च किया। सर, जो रुपया डिपार्टमेंट पर खर्च हो रहा है, वह फॉरेस्ट पर खर्च क्यों नहीं हो रहा है? दूसरी चीज, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को आप आज क्या ऐड दे रहे हैं, इसको बढ़ाने के लिए क्या विचार है, यह भी क्लिअर नहीं है?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, in the Ninth Plan, we have totally spent Rs. 470 crores. In the Tenth Plan, it was enhanced to Rs. 800 crores. So, there is no question of lapse of funds and other things. As on date, no proposal from the State Government of Assam is pending with us to spend more money for facilitation of national parks and sanctuaries.

डा॰ (श्रीमती) नजमा ए॰ हेपतुल्ला: सर, मेरा तो 16 साल का बैकलॉग है। So, I should be allowed to put every day one question.

श्री सभापति: हां, आप 16 साल इस कुर्सी पर बैठी हैं।

डा॰ (श्रीमती) नजमा ए॰ हेपतुल्ला: सर, वहां बैठकर मैं सिर्फ सवाल-जवाब सुनती रहीं और एक भी सवाल नहीं कर पायी।

श्री सभापति: अच्छा पूछिए।

डा॰ (श्रीमती) नजमा ए॰ हेपतुल्ला: सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि अभी कुछ दिन पहले मुंबई में बोरीवली नेशनल पार्क के बारे में खबर आई थी कि वाइल्ड एनिमल्स शेर और चीतों ने बहुत से लोगों को जख्मी किया है। आज की खबर यह है कि सर्कस में से जो शेर रेसक्यू किए गए हैं, उनको बोरीवली नेशनल पार्क में रखने से इंकार कर दिया गया है। यह मेरे सवाल का एक भाग है। दूसरा भाग यह है कि पिछले हफ्ते महाराष्ट्र में ट्रायबल्स डेथ्स के बारे में डिस्कसन हुआ था और हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने यह सवाल उठाया था कि वहां नेशनल पार्क बनने से हमारे गांवों में रहने वाले ट्रायबल्स की लाइवलीहुड पर प्रभाव पड़ा है, जिनका जड़ी-बूटियां इकट्ठा करना ही काम है, जिन लोगों का जीना-मरना उन्हीं पर निर्भर था, उस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या आदेश दिए हैं या क्या स्कीम बनायी है? महोदय, मंत्री जी एक लाख रुपए देने की बात कर रहे हैं, मैं कहना चाहती हूं कि अगर आप ने एक लाख रुपए दिये होते तो मुझे लगता है कि खाली महाराष्ट्र में सैकड़ों-हजारों ट्रायबल्स की डेथ नहीं होती।

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, we launched tribal welfare measures in various ways, but the problem is, the Supreme Court gave a direction. Since the Forests (Protection) Act came into existence, the existence of tribals and their rights have been protected, where the tribals are having pattas. After that, our hands are tied because of the Supreme Court verdict,

that no regularisation should take place. Till the writ is disposed of by the Supreme Court, we can't do anything. Since the Act came into existence, we had regularised the pattas through all the State Governments, those families are residing well within the purview of the Forest Act; inside the forest land, their pattas were regularised; those villages were converted into revenue villages, and the title given by the District Collector or by the District Magistrate holds good till this date. After eighties, no doubt, there are some problems with tribals; the legal lacuna is there; our hands are tied. In spite of that, the Ministry is deeply concerned over this problem. We are making all efforts to lift the ban; the writ is pending before the Supreme Court. As soon as the Stay Order is vacated, we will give it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, it is I who launched "Project Tiger" in 1971. I was Chairman of the Indian Board for Wildlife; I launched "Project Tiger", and I have been following it all these years.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has come across reports that illegal mining and illegal felling of forests are taking place in some of our national parks as a result of a malign alignment between corrupt contractors and corrupt officials, and, sometimes, political leaders. Is the Minister aware of it? For example, in Kanha, I understand that there is some illegal mining. Will he assure the House that steps will be taken to see that illegal mining does not take place in all the game sanctuaries and the habitat is not disturbed?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I have not come across any specific case, as the hon. Member has mentioned. If there is any specific case, let him write to me. I will definitely look into it.

Broad gauge line in Lumding-Silchar Sector

*163. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of the work on broad gauge line between Lumding-Silchar sector of North-Frontier Railways;

(b) by when this project is expected to be completed;